



Heart of Rock

Becca Price , Annette Tremblay (Illustrations)

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In the distant past, a city of wizards was menaced by horrible Nightmares. The wizards carved hideous gargoyles out of stone, bringing them to life using the magical Heart of Rock, to defend their city.

Now the Heart of Rock is needed to save another kingdom, and one brave cobbler must find it.

But the gargoyles cannot live without their talisman; will the cobbler's quest to save his kingdom doom theirs?

Two kingdoms. Two heroes. One talisman.

"Heart of Rock" is three interconnected short stories that look at the question: when one questing hero finds a magical amulet, what happens to those who've lost it?

Heart of Rock Details

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Author : Becca Price , Annette Tremblay (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Heart of Rock for online ebook

Melissa says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

This was a beautifully written book. The three acts were an amazing. My kids enjoyed this book very much.

Chicco Padovan says

In questa nuova fiaba Becca Price (già autrice di *Dragons and Dreeams* e *Fairies and Fireflies*) unisce elementi epici alla struttura delle tre prove tipica della fiaba classica. Divide il racconto in tre parti autoconclusive ma legate tra loro e decostruisce il suo eroe, che nonostante le buone intenzioni commette uno sbaglio. Le mie fiabe preferite della Price rimangono quelle contenute nel suo primo libro, ma anche questa è un'ottima lettura. Il volume è accompagnato dalle illustrazioni di Annette Tremblay.

4.5 stars

Pop Bop says

A Cheerful, Upbeat Tale with A Satisfying Conclusion

Last year Becca Price released a charming collection of dragon fairy tales suitable for mellow bedtime reading. (Appropriately titled "Dragons and Dreams: Bedtime Stories".) It was a cheerful effort that displayed a nice sense of humor, so I was encouraged to read this new book.

"Heart of Rock" is a bit different. It is a single fairy tale in three acts, with each act ending with a solution to a problem that bears within it the seeds of a future problem. The final resolution is based on cooperation and good will among the characters, and ends on a clear, high note.

These sorts of stories can be very challenging because the author has to strike the right tone consistently; if something feels odd or weird instead of funny, or if some character's behavior is inconsistent, or if there is an undercurrent of sourness or sarcasm, the whole thing can fall apart. Ms. Price has a nice touch, the story is clear and well developed and explained, the ending is positive, and good is rewarded. (And no one is eaten.)

So, a nice choice for an early reader or as a read with.

Please note that I received a free ecopy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

Howard Brazee says

This is an introduction of classical style fairy tales in a child-safe manner with 3 related stories. The author has more stories elsewhere.

Megan says

I'm not sure how to review this one, as I was expecting an actual book, not just a 36-page set of three very short "stories" written for children. It was listed as a fantasy book, and in the giveaway details there was no mention that it was short stories, or so short. Maybe I should have gone to the book's actual page before entering, but if the synopsis is present and clear in the giveaway details I don't normally look at page count and genre.

So I didn't get much out of it myself, and admit to being disappointed. But as a small book for children it's a simple story told in three parts, teaching a simple lesson. Therefore, 3 stars for the appropriate audience.

P.J. O'Brien says

The nice thing about having young children on your holiday shopping list is that you get to play with toys* and browse through a lot of nifty books. This is one of them. It comprises three simple stories that build on each other, though each could stand alone. They have a very mythic feel and would be perfect either for reading aloud or for imaginative young readers. The illustrations are simple and lovely too.

This is the second Becca Price book I've read through and I'm so pleased with both that every child on my list under the age of ten is going to have at least one by her.

*strictly for research, of course

Francesca says

Nuova uscita per Becca Price, che in questo caso si cimenta con un tipo di fiabe più classico rispetto alle precedenti pubblicate, ma non per questo non meno deliziosa.

Troviamo un principe che deve affrontare delle prove e attraverso i suoi errori capire come agire nel giusto, nonché la rivisitazione accattivante della figura del golem, che mi è piaciuta molto.

Belle le illustrazioni di Annette Tremblay.

Bruce Gargoyle says

Full review at: <http://thebookshelfgargoyle.wordpress...>

I received a digital copy of this title from the publisher via Netgalley.

Ten Second Synopsis:

Wizards use gargoyles with heart of stone to defeat nightmares. Gargoyles need heart of stone to survive.

Cobbler steals heart of stone to protect his kingdom...there can only be one winner. Or can there?

When I first read the blurb for this book I was expecting an epic adventure, so I was slightly surprised to find out that it really is just a short story – only 36 pages of text with some small illustrations throughout. After re-adjusting my expectations slightly, I was drawn in by the traditional fairy tale style of narration that Price uses throughout. The story is quite simple, with the wizards, then the new kingdom, then the gargoyles facing a seemingly impossible dilemma, and then overcoming it. The plot follows a fairly stable trajectory, with nothing too scary or unexpected occurring.

As a standalone story, I felt it was a bit lacking, but at the end of the book the author notes that this story will be released as part of a collection of fairy-tale style stories. I think that in that context, it will be well received by young readers and their grown-ups, due to the overall themes of considering the needs of others and working together to achieve shared goals that are present.

I would have liked the gargoyles to have had a bit more personality to them, but the fable style of story-telling didn't really allow for any in-depth character development. Incidentally, if Price were to extend this story to a full-length YA title, I'd be interested in picking it up!

Wanda Hartzenberg says

Ok so the story, told in three acts is exceptionally good, it contains facets of folklore, fantasy, fairy tales etc and the writing is not so helter-skelter that the reader spends anytime on trying to fit the book into a genre classification. This is exceptional for I have found in reading that plenty an author has at times too many facets within a story or plot line making my mind go ---- WAIT --- I need to find a niche for this. Not so with this book. It is exceptionally low keyed and at the same time defined. Not an easy task I am sure.

The plot line, the three acts, all works toward making this story easy and open to all ages, from young readers to old will have fun with the story line/plot line and even the theme of the book.

The character development is extremely subtle though consistent and I loved this. What can I say? This is an amazing author, BUT do not take my word for it....get a copy and judge for yourself.

WaAr

Marilyn Peake says

Having thoroughly enjoyed Becca Price's book for younger children, **The Snarls**, I decided to read her book, **Heart of Rock**, for children ages 7-10. I was not disappointed. **Heart of Rock** includes three chapters which are actually three wonderfully interconnected short stories. The illustrations throughout the book are gorgeous.

As with all great fairy tales, **Heart of Rock** presents three stories in which there are fantastical creatures, challenging situations, human dilemmas and moral decisions to be made. There's a pinch of fright as well,

the type that children enjoy; and some of the frightening creatures like the Gargoyles turn out to be the good guys.

In **Heart of Rock**, Becca Price develops a consistent historical fantasy world.

In Chapter One, **The Night Mares**, a beautiful city ruled by mighty wizards and inhabited by artistic people is repeatedly attacked at night by winged horses called Night Mares. The Chief Wizard goes down to a place where two rivers meet to find "a small reddish rock, shaped by wind and water into the rough shape of a heart." While the wizards work their magic on the rock, the artists create Gargoyles. Soon after, the Chief Wizard places the Heart of Rock into the Gargoyle King, the most ferocious-looking of the Gargoyles. When this gives him life, the Gargoyle King is so thankful, he and the other Gargoyles defend the people and vanquish the Night Mares. In the end, the people decide to allow the Gargoyles to keep the Heart of Rock. The Gargoyles retreat to their caves in the mountains, promising to return to help the people if they're ever in trouble again.

Chapter Two, **The Three Trials**, is a wonderful fable. It takes place at a time so many years after **The Night Mares** occurred that only legend remains about a magical amulet called the Heart of Rock believed to exist in a cave deep in the mountains. When the city of Argentia is attacked, a prince, a knight and a poor cobbler take turns searching for the Heart of Rock. The Argentian King supplies each of them with food and money to aid them on their quest. All are approached along the way by those in need. Only one traveler passes the necessary moral tests to gain access to the Heart of Rock.

Chapter Three, **The Two Kings**, presents a moral dilemma arising out of a serious misunderstanding that occurred in **The Three Trials**. The Gargoyle King wakes up to discover that the Heart of Rock has been taken from his chest. Knowing that he will return to lifeless stone as soon as the magic remaining from the Heart of Rock leaves him, he sets off on a desperate mission to find it. When he reaches the Argentian King and the person who took away his heart, they learn that they have taken away the Gargoyle King's life. They also learn that the Gargoyle race was created to protect humankind. The two kings communicate and negotiate with each other. The last sentence in the book is: "And so the two kingdoms lived together in peace and prosperity for many years." What a truly delightful book!
